Nisga'a Final Agreement
Implementation Report
2011-2012

The Nisga'a Final Agreement is British Columbia's first modern treaty. A landmark in the relationship between Canada and its First Nations peoples, the Treaty came into effect on May 11, 2000.

The governments of Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation are partners in the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty), which sets out Nisga'a Lands and the Nisga'a people's right of self-government. Because three governments share responsibility for the Treaty, an implementation committee was formed to provide a forum for the partners to discuss its implementation.

This report summarizes the progress made in the twelfth year of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.

Hli gadihl Nisg̱a'a ahl K̲'alii-Aksim Lisims / Nisg̱a'a — People of the Nass River

OUR HOME

K̲'alii-Aksim Lisims (the Nass River) flows through a land of sacred mountains and dense forests on Canada's Pacific Coast. The Nisg̱a'a people have lived in the Nass River Valley since before recorded time. Today, the Nisg̱a'a Nation includes more than 6,838 people residing in the Nisg̱a'a Villages of Gin̲olx, Lax̲g̱alts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw, Gitlax̲t'aamiks (formerly New Aiyansh) and beyond the Nass Valley in Terrace, Prince Rupert/Port Edward, Greater Vancouver, and across North America.

OUR TREATY

May 11, 2000, marked the end of a 113-year journey — and the first steps in a new direction. On that date, the Effective Date of the Nisga'a Final Agreement (the Treaty), the *Indian Act* ceased to apply to Nisga'a people (except for the purpose of determining whether an individual is an "Indian"). The Nisga'a Final Agreement is the first treaty in British Columbia to provide constitutional certainty in respect of an Aboriginal people's Section 35 right to self-government. The Treaty recognizes Nisga'a Lands (2000 km²) and opens the door for joint economic initiatives in the development of the Nisga'a Nation's natural resources. An example of hope, trust, and cooperation, the Nisga'a Final Agreement is being studied by governments and Aboriginal peoples the world over.

OUR GOVERNMENT

Proud British Columbians and Canadians, Nisga'a citizens are responsible for building and maintaining their own institutions. The Nisga'a Nation is represented by Nisga'a Lisims Government (NLG) — a modern, forward-thinking administration based on traditional culture and values. Nisga'a Government has the authority to pass laws on a broad range of matters. At the same time, Nisga'a lawmaking authority is concurrent with federal and provincial authority. Designed to assure democracy, transparency, and accountability, Nisga'a Government is comprised of NLG, the four Nisga'a Village Governments, and three Nisga'a Urban Locals.

OUR VISION

"Sayt-K'ilim-Goot: one heart, one path, one nation." NLG is committed to ensuring its programs, services, and day-to-day operations reflect this vision.

In the spirit of Sayt-K'ilim-Goot, the Nisga'a Nation is a place where:

- our Ayuuk, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity
- learning is a way of life
- we strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance
- we inspire trust and understanding through effective communication, and
- our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs.

We are Nisga'a, the people of K'alii-Aksim Lisims. From time immemorial, we have lived in the lands that K'am Ligii Hahlhaahl gave to our ancestors.

— DECLARATION OF THE NISGA'A NATION (1998)

Ni̓lhl g̱an aluut'aahl naa ṅuum̓ wil dip hooxhl ayuug̱am̓, algax̱am̓, g̱anhl lip wilaa loom̓

Our Ayuuk̲, language, and culture are the foundation of our identity

Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government is committed to protecting and promoting Nisg̱a'a culture in all aspects of society. Ayuukhl Nisg̱a'a — the ancient laws and customs of the Nisg̱a'a people — informs, guides, and inspires Nisg̱a'a culture. The Nisg̱a'a Constitution provides that Simgigat (chiefs), Sigidim haanak̲ (matriarchs), and respected Nisg̱a'a elders advise Nisg̱a'a Government on matters relating to the traditional values of the Nisg̱a'a Nation through the Council of Elders, and that Nisg̱a'a Government must respect and encourage the use of the Nisg̱a'a language and the practice of Nisg̱a'a culture.

AYUUK̲HL NISG̱A'A DEPARTMENT

The Ayuukhl Nisg̱a'a Department (AND) protects, preserves, and promotes Nisg̱a'a language, culture, and history. This is achieved through:

- development and maintenance of the catalogue system for Nisg̱a'a archives
- digitizing audio interviews with elders and past leaders
- resource and administrative support for the Council of Elders and various government committees
- liaison and negotiations with outside museums and institutes
- collaborating and supporting various language and culture initiatives by various NLG stakeholders
- research and production of books on key aspects of Nisg̱a'a culture, and
- supporting other NLG languages and culture initiatives.

During the reporting period, AND printed the long-anticipated Anhluut'ukwsim Sa̓winskhl Nisg̱a'a (Nisg̱a'a Yukw Settlement Feasting Procedures and Protocols), which is now available to Nisg̱a'a citizens and institutions. This book was produced to help educate Nisg̱a'a youth regarding the feasting system — a critical part of Nisg̱a'a culture. In addition, AND played a critical role in the successful preparation and opening of Hli G̱oothl Wilp-Adok̲shl Nisg̱a'a, the Nisg̱a'a Museum.

NISG̱A'A MUSEUM

On May 11, 2011, Hli G̱oothl Wilp-Adok̲shl Nisg̱a'a, the Nisg̱a'a Museum, opened in a dedication ceremony for Nisg̱a'a people, dignitaries, and special guests. Opening on the 11th anniversary of British Columbia's first modern treaty, the museum is the permanent home of the Ancestors' Collection — over 300 Nisg̱a'a artifacts that have been repatriated through the Nisg̱a'a Final Agreement.

Hli G̱oothl Wilp-Adok̲shl Nisg̱a'a means "The Heart of Nisg̱a'a House Crests," a name that celebrates the importance of Nisg̱a'a tribes and tribal crests in Nisg̱a'a society. With a design inspired by traditional Nisg̱a'a longhouses, feast dishes, and canoes, the 10,000 sq. ft. facility contains exquisitely carved masks, bentwood boxes, headdresses, and soul catchers acquired from the Nass Valley during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. At that time of radical change, many Nisg̱a'a possessions were destroyed; others were acquired by outsiders and eventually sold to museums. Now, for the first time, these Nisg̱a'a treasures are displayed together in their place of origin.

"The development of the world-renowned art style that typifies the First Nations of the north coast of British Columbia and Southeast Alaska had its origins at the mouth of the Nass River," explained George MacDonald, Director Emeritus, Canadian Museum of Civilization. "The Nisga'a Museum houses one of the finest collections of Northwest Coast Aboriginal art in existence. It will attract international attention and redraw the map of cultural tourism in British Columbia."

A permanent home for the preservation and celebration of all that is Nisga'a, the Nisga'a Museum is poised to become a centre of research, learning, and cultural tourism in northwest British Columbia. The project is funded entirely through the Nisga'a Foundation and NLG.

ANHLUUT'UKWSIM LAX̲-MIHL ANGWINGA'ASA'ANSKWHL NISGA'A
NISGA'A MEMORIAL LAVA BED PARK

Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park — the first provincial park managed jointly by a First Nation and British Columbia — offers spectacular natural features and a dramatic introduction to Nisga'a culture. The Nisga'a alkali basalt flow is one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province. With a 16-site vehicle campground, picnic areas, visitor information centre, boat launches, and short hikes, the park offers visitors a wide variety of activities and a chance to learn more about Nisga'a culture and the natural history of the region. British Columbia funds an annual agreement for park services and maintenance ($52,166).

"WE OBSERVE AYUUKHL NISGA'A, WE HAVE HEARD OUR ADAAWAK̲ RELATING TO ALL OUR ANGO'OSKW, FROM THE SIMGIGAT AND SIGIDIM HAANAK̲ OF EACH OF OUR WILP." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

Huxwdii adigwil yukwhl siwilaaksim̓

Learning is a way of life

The Nisga'a Nation is committed to improving its education system, helping adult learners gain more training, and encouraging all Nisga'a to engage in lifelong learning to help build the economy and strengthen Nisga'a society.

PRIMARY, SECONDARY, & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

On Nisga'a Lands, primary and secondary students are served by School District #92 (Nisga'a), part of British Columbia's publicly funded school system. The school board consists of four Nisga'a members (representing each Nisga'a Village) and one non-Nisga'a member. Nisga'a Lisims Government works in partnership with the School District to foster and protect Nisga'a language and culture while seeking to raise the standard of education for all Nass Valley youth.

During the reporting period, British Columbia allocated to School District #92 (Nisga'a) a total of $7 million in operating funding for the 2011/2012 school year. British Columbia also funded the Nisga'a Early Learning Leadership Team to help School District #92 (Nisga'a) build capacity for early learning, and $144,000 was provided to support the program in coordinating local early learning efforts. Eligible organizations on Nisga'a Lands also receive gaming grants and gaming event licenses from British Columbia. Nisga'a Elementary Secondary School has received a total of $89,710 since the Effective Date (including $5,000 during this reporting period). School District #92 (Nisga'a) also received $117,641 in CommunityLink payments, which helps provide services such as breakfast and lunch programs, community school programs, school-based support workers, and counselling for at-risk children and youth.

NLG's new Post-Secondary Education Program Policy guides education service delivery for Nisga'a Village Governments. Included in this policy are eligibility criteria, clear funding levels, an appeal process, as well as scholarships for specific career paths.

Combined Post-Secondary enrollment and completion rates of Nisga'a citizens (who were eligible to graduate), 2006–2012

	ENROLLMENT*		COMPLETION RATE %	
YEAR	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE
2011-2012	153	128	66.01%	84.84%
2010-2011	169	107	53.49%	64.52%
2009-2010	144	87	70.30%	75.38%
2008-2009	128	92	48.44%	52.17%
2007-2008	152	104	48.68%	47.12%
2006-2007	126	58	42.06%	47.12%

*Includes university, college, Open Learning Agency, institutes, and private post-secondary institutions.

WILP WILX̱O'OSKWHL NISG̱A'A INSTITUTE

Wilp Wilx̱o'oskwhl Nisg̱a'a Institute (WWNI) is a community driven, student focused Aboriginal post-secondary and training institute that works in three areas: academic, vocational and technical, and continuing education. Through partnerships with a number of public post-secondary institutes, WWNI delivers a range of programs and training opportunities, including: Master of Arts Cohort, Bachelor of Arts (First Nations Studies), University/College preparation, Grade 12 Achievement, Vocational and Technical training, and continuing education programs. Nisg̱a'a Language and Culture are WWNI's most subscribed courses. To date, WWNI has recorded 1,450 course completions in Nisg̱a'a language and 802 course completions in Nisg̱a'a Culture.

During the reporting period, WWNI had 182 enrolments in academic programs and 452 in vocational/technical programs (with 271 vocational/technical certificates awarded). Since WWNI's incorporation in 1993, graduates have earned the following credentials.

Academic

- 34 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 2 Bachelor of Science (most coursework through WWNI)
- 1 Bachelor of Commerce (most coursework through WWNI)
- 1 First Nations Language and Culture Diploma
- 1 First Nations Language and Education Diploma
- 3 Honorary Doctorate of Laws
- 1 Professor Emerita

Academic Certificates

- 44 Nisg̱a'a Studies Certificates
- 7 First Nations Language — Nisg̱a'a Certificates
- 40 General First Nations Studies Certificate

Vocational/Technical Certificates

- 271 (various)

WWN Institute Funding Sources

NISG̱A'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT	$262,429
NISG̱A'A NATION FFA / CANADA	$338,685
NISG̱A'A NATION FFA / BRITISH COLUMBIA	$280,000
UNBC / WWNI FEDERATED AGREEMENT / BRITISH COLUMBIA	$216,000
MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION / BRITISH COLUMBIA	$91,000
HEALTH CANADA	$19,578
UNBC / WWNI ENDOWMENT FUND*	$0

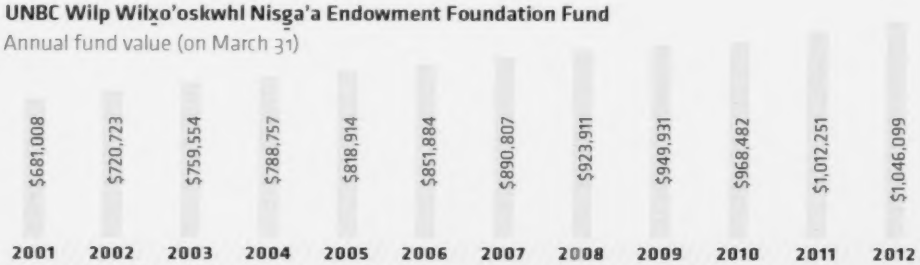
*Through the Vancouver Foundation. Current Value: $1,046,099. Accrued Interest from this fund provides partial support to Nisg̱a'a Language at the WWN Institute. No disbursement in reporting period.

UNBC WILP WILX̱O'OSKWHL NISG̱A'A ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION FUND

The UNBC Wilp Wilx̱o'oskwhl Nisg̱a'a Endowment Foundation (a registered charitable society) was established in order to build a secure, independent funding base for WWNI's capital projects, student scholarships and bursaries, faculty and staff development, and other priorities. From its inception, WWNI has received strong support from the Nisg̱a'a people, British Columbia, and Canada. In a demonstration of support, the Nisg̱a'a business community initially contributed $100,000, and later made a $250,000 donation to the Nisg̱a'a Endowment Fund (as it was then known). This was generously matched by British Columbia and UNBC. The endowment has continued to grow under the UNBC Wilp Wilx̱o'oskwhl Nisg̱a'a Endowment Foundation.

UNBC Wilp Wilx̱o'oskwhl Nisg̱a'a Endowment Foundation Fund

Annual fund value (on March 31)



Nisga'a Economy

Sgihl g̱andi'ak̲hla'amskw loom̓, g̱an wil dip dixyugwihl ha'am wil

We strive for sustainable prosperity and self-reliance

A fully integrated part of the economy of northwest British Columbia, the Nisg̱a'a economy shares in both the region's opportunities and challenges. The primary industries in the Nass Valley are fishing and forestry. Seasonal resource industries are complemented by full-time employment in the government, education, and healthcare sectors. Since May 11, 2000, infrastructure improvements have brought new jobs and skills while tourism and telecommunications offer the promise of expanding and diversifying employment opportunities.

NISG̱A'A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Through the department of Nisg̱a'a Economic Development, NLG provides Nisg̱a'a entrepreneurs and organizations with access to business information, tools, and financial capital. NLG is investing in research and development, infrastructure, strategic partnerships, and a variety of projects to stimulate the Nisg̱a'a economy, support Nisg̱a'a citizens, and promote a new era of economic prosperity and sustainability. Since the Effective Date of the Treaty, NLG has worked to lay a foundation for prosperity and self-determination through collaboration with Nisg̱a'a Village Governments and the Nisg̱a'a Urban Locals. This effort is resulting in a shared vision for sustainable economic prosperity.

During the reporting period, a Labour Market Plan was completed. The plan is designed to assist in planning for human resource, training, and employment needs for Nisg̱a'a citizens residing on Nisg̱a'a Lands.

LAND ACQUISITIONS

During the reporting period, NLG purchased two privately held properties, Nass Camp and Vetter Lodge. The total purchase price of these properties was $2.26 million. These properties can now be converted into Nisg̱a'a Lands. While long term plans for these properties have not been confirmed, in the near term Nass Camp is being configured to take advantage of potential economic opportunities in connection with the Northwest Transmission Line.

NISG̱A'A BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

With the goal of helping Nisg̱a'a entrepreneurs compete in the global marketplace, the Nisg̱a'a Business Development Fund provides advice, services, and funding. Recipients include both new and established Nisg̱a'a enterprises with promising products or services targeted at a variety of market sectors. Funds are provided for business support and capacity building, feasibility studies and development costs, and capital investments for business infrastructure, and are intended to help applicants leverage funds from lending institutions and other equity programs. Tourism projects, retail and home-based businesses, small industry development, and corporate projects have all received investments. During the reporting period, five new projects were approved creating 32 employment positions (funding total $81,200).

NISG̱A'A COMMERCIAL GROUP OF COMPANIES

To ensure the separation between commercial interests and government programs and services, the Nisg̱a'a Nation created Nisg̱a'a corporations to fulfill specific needs, such as marketing fish (Nisg̱a'a Fisheries Ltd.), managing forest resources (Lisims Forest Resources), building a telecommunications infrastructure (enTel), and promoting tourism (NCG Tourism). These businesses are managed through the Nisg̱a'a Commercial Group

of Companies (NCG), with a mission to improve and sustain the economic wealth and well-being of the Nisga'a Nation and its citizens by being well managed, profitable, and having a reputation for excellence. NCG is wholly owned by the Nisga'a Nation, but professionally managed by an independent Board of Directors made up of leading members of the business community who provide a wealth of experience and candid advice.

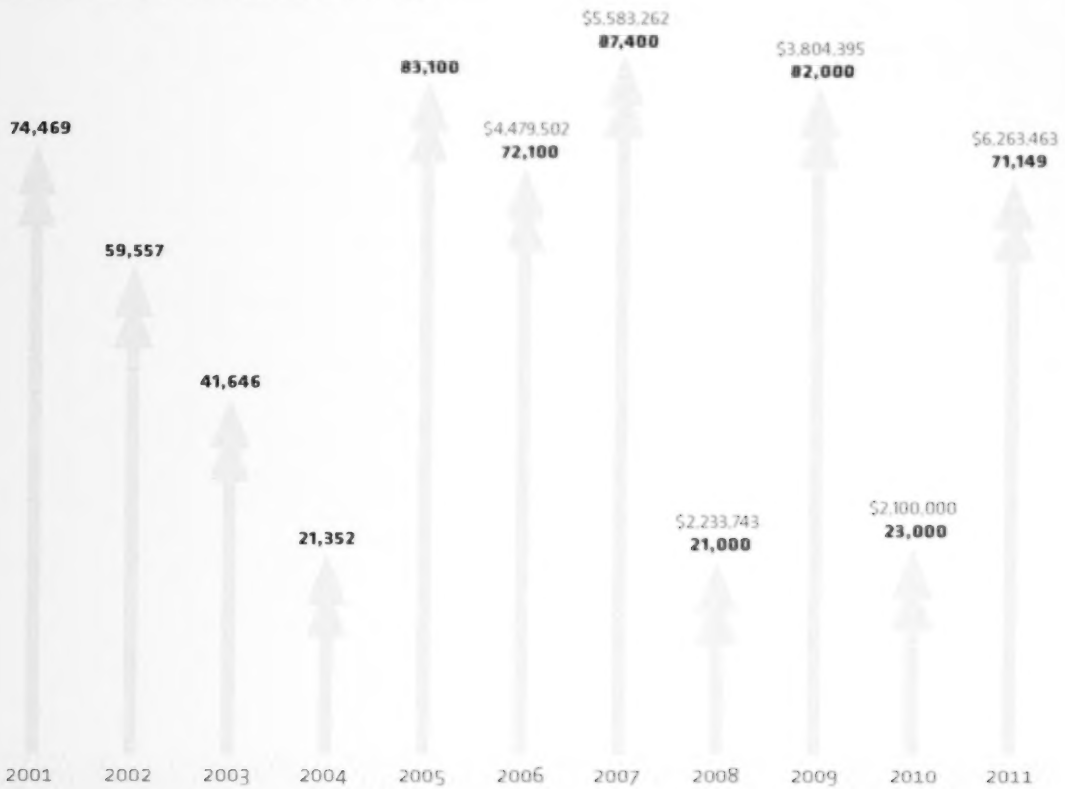
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RESOURCES

NLG manages Nisga'a forests to protect this natural inheritance and to provide employment for Nisga'a people. Ecological sustainability is a prime consideration in the development and approval of all operations within Nisga'a Lands, and the *Nisga'a Forest Act* sets high standards to maintain biodiversity. NLG also manages all land and forest resources on Nisga'a Lands, including non-timber resources. Pine mushrooms, a popular delicacy in Asia, are a valuable resource found in Nisga'a forests and are harvested seasonally.

During the reporting period, an ongoing inventory of timber resources continued. The purpose of the forest inventory project is to better understand the volume and diversity of the timber types on Nisga'a Lands. Understanding this is of critical importance for managing timber cutting rights on Nisga'a Lands.

NLG collects a silviculture levy to ensure reforestation of cut-blocks on Nisga'a Lands is funded over the long term. The current fund is approximately $1 million.

Cubic Metres of Timber Harvested Since 2001



Dollar value of timber sales reported beginning in 2006.

PROVINCIAL FUNDING

In 2003, following the bankruptcy of New Skeena Forest Products, British Columbia assumed responsibility for completing unfulfilled treaty obligations. The work involved re-planting cut-blocks, maintaining roads, and decommissioning two abandoned work sites. During the reporting period, British Columbia undertook the following work on Nisga'a Lands:

- Nisga'a Lands surveys – 119.1 ha ($8,318.18), and
- Nisga'a Lands planting – 5 ha, 820 trees ($1,500).

NISGA'A FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

One of the healthiest river systems in the world, K'alii-Aksim Lisims (the Nass) is the spawning grounds of five species of wild salmon, steelhead, and oolichan. NLG and Canada manage the Nass River salmon fishery to preserve the resource, provide for Nisga'a citizens, and support a modern, sustainable fishing industry.

Facilitated through the Joint Fisheries Management Committee (comprised of representatives from Canada, British Columbia, and the Nisga'a Nation) the Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program utilizes fish wheels and other technologies on the Nass River for salmon monitoring, tagging, and data collection, and conducts stock assessments on a variety of species throughout the Nass Area. NLG works with British Columbia to manage the non-salmon sport fishery.

During the reporting period, Nisga'a Fisheries reported very healthy oolichan returns, with 347 tons caught by Nisga'a fish camps — well above the average catch of 170 tons from 1997–2011. Nisga'a harvests of oolichan have been strong over recent years, indicating that the population is healthy. The Nass salmon stock status continues to be of concern as the Total Returns to Canada (TRTC) in 2010 and 2011 for all salmon species were below their ten-year average. However, with the exception of Pink salmon in 2010 and Chum salmon in both years, spawning targets for Nass salmon species were achieved.

Salmon Harvested in Individual and Communal Sale Fisheries

	SOCKEYE	COHO	PINK	CHUM	CHINOOK	REVENUE
2001	51,427	12,068	75,820	1,078	–	$637,000
2002	108,814	6,800	–	–	–	$1,177,000
2003	114,572	13,672	14,075	23	–	$1,326,000
2004	116,671	17,170	8,983	–	–	$1,619,000
2005	82,679	12,585	2,361	577	857	$956,000
2006	64,253	5,249	3,042	948	1,946	$671,000
2007	33,624	6,372	3,688	697	2,435	$484,000
2008	17,728	793	3,438	276	–	$206,126
2009	45,542	10,406	20,895	–	1,597	$624,000
2010	33,818	7,768	1,338	1	28	$440,000
2011	18,364	1,134	40,460	0	874	$347,435

Chart based on individual fish caught. Estimated catch in Individual and Communal Sale fisheries.
Revenue is estimated revenue to local economy. Estimated value based on annual average weight and price per pound for each species in Area 3 commercial fisheries.

NASS RIVER: A CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE FISHERY

The health of the Nass River continues to garner international acclaim. During the reporting period, Nass Sockeye salmon were again certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a sustainable fishery. Maintaining this highly respected certification is a testament to the management of Nass salmon stocks under the framework of the Nisga'a Final Agreement.

NASS RETAINS CHINOOK "SENTINEL STOCK" STATUS

During the reporting period, the upper Nass River Chinook stock continued to be recognized by the Pacific Salmon Commission as a "Sentinel Stock" critical to the Pacific Salmon Treaty between Canada and the United States. Through this recognition the Nisga'a Fisheries Program was awarded the third annual installment of five years of funding (totaling approximately $487,000) to enhance its ability to estimate the abundance of these critical Chinook populations. Part of the funding will help improve efforts at counting Chinook at key spawning locations (including Meziadin, Kwinageese, and Damdochax).

FISH & WILDLIFE ASSESSMENTS

During the reporting period, NLG undertook fish and wildlife assessments and inventories in the Nass Area. Funded by British Columbia ($85,000) and NLG ($15,000), the primary objective of this project is to evaluate wildlife and fisheries resources as directed by the Nass Wildlife Committee and the Joint Fisheries Management Committee, such as trout and char stock assessment, and moose inventories in the Nass watershed.

NLG continued its large-scale study of Nass River Summer Steelhead. The work involved tagging adult Steelhead (completed in 2010–2011), collecting biological data (e.g. ages), and refining methods to accurately estimate abundance each year. This work is ongoing and continued into the next reporting period. The results of this study will complement 20 years of collaborative work between Nisga'a Fisheries and British Columbia and contribute to upcoming reports on the status of Nass River Summer Steelhead. The majority of the funding for this study comes from the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust.

LISIMS FISHERIES CONSERVATION TRUST

The Nisga'a Fisheries Management Program applies the highest standards in the areas of conservation and environmental protection to ensure a healthy, productive aquatic ecosystem for the benefit of present and future generations. This commitment is ensured, in part, by the Lisims Fisheries Conservation Trust. Trustees appointed by NLG and Canada administer the trust, and recommendations from the Joint Fisheries Management Committee are taken into account in sponsoring projects, programs, and activities that are in keeping with the trust's objectives. The trust promotes conservation and protection of Nass Area fish species, facilitates sustainable management, and supports Nisga'a participation in fishery stewardship for the benefit of all Canadians.

Investment Status of Lisims Trust

YEAR	NET ASSET VALUE[1]	DISBURSEMENT
2001	$13,720,000	$0
2002	$12,300,000	$0
2003	$12,210,000	$0
2004	$13,370,000	$313,000
2005	$14,860,000	$600,000
2006	$15,590,000	$600,000
2007	$15,650,000	$550,000
2008	$12,230,000	$0
2009	$14,390,000	$550,000
2010	$15,428,380	$550,000
2011	$14,127,661	$575,000

1 Approximate Net Asset Value (on Dec. 31).

KWINAGEESE MANOEUVRE

In late July and early August of 2011, reports were being received that salmon were not arriving at the Kwinageese weir. A team was dispatched by helicopter to overfly the entire Kwinageese River to determine the problem. A blockage was found that hindered the migration of salmon to spawning beds and a plan was developed to place cement blocks downriver from the blockage to raise the water level. The plan, dubbed the "Kwinageese Manoeuvre" was executed and the salmon started to jump over the barrier and the count for Sockeye salmon increased from 48 to over 10,000 when the migration was complete. Teamwork between NLG, Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and British Columbia's Ministry of the Environment made this success possible. Funding for the $75,000 project was provided by NLG ($25,000), DFO ($25,000), and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation ($25,000).

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE ENFORCEMENT

The Department of Resource Enforcement, Directorate of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Directorate of Lands and Resources work together to enforce Nisga'a procedures, policies, and laws under the *Fisheries and Wildlife Act*, *Nisga'a Forest Act*, and *Nisga'a Offence Act*. Altogether, six personnel are committed to the Department of Resource Enforcement team.

With the goal of protecting and preserving the region's natural resources, NLG's Department of Resource Enforcement works with DFO and British Columbia's Conservation Service to ensure that all Nisga'a, provincial, and federal laws are enforced on Nisga'a Lands.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As a member of the tripartite Nass Wildlife Committee, NLG co-manages wildlife in the 16,101 km² Nass Wildlife Area. Under the Treaty, moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear have been identified as designated species for which there are specific Nisga'a allocations. The committee reviews available data annually and makes recommendations regarding total allowable harvests and Nisga'a allocations for these species. British Columbia uses this information to establish allowable harvests and approve the annual Nass Wildlife Management Plan. Through the Fiscal Financing Agreement, British Columbia provides $20,000 annually to NLG for wildlife management.

NLG has implemented a permit system to manage the harvest of designated species by Nisga'a citizens. NLG's Fisheries and Wildlife Department report that both grizzly bear and mountain goat populations are believed to be healthy and sustainable. However, the moose population in the Nass Wildlife Area has declined in recent years and NLG has responded by adjusting the number of permits issued, and by modifying the timing of the hunt. NLG is developing a recovery plan that will set out the ways in which the moose population in the Nass Wildlife Area might be increased to a more appropriate level. Hunting of non-designated species and non-commercial trapping continues in accordance with traditional practices and as set out in the *Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act* and associated regulations. Commercial trapping activities are conducted in accordance with the *BC Wildlife Act* and associated regulations.

HERITAGE & CULTURAL TOURISM

During the reporting period, members of several Nisga'a communities participated in a workshop on Heritage and Cultural Tourism in New Aiyansh led by British Columbia's Heritage Branch. Workshop participants identified heritage values and historic places in their communities and explored the economic benefits of heritage and cultural tourism. A tourism vision for the Nass Valley was developed; strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for local tourism development were identified. Partnership opportunities were explored and participants left with a list of next steps for their individual community tourism action plans.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The following infrastructure projects were undertaken on Nisga'a Land during the reporting period.

LAXGALTS'AP COMMUNITY CENTRE: Following a comprehensive structural assessment in 2005, it was determined that the community hall was no longer suitable for public use. Laxgalts'ap Village Government undertook a community consultation process and embarked on a building program. With the Nisga'a Capital Finance Commission (NCFC) providing the majority of the $10 million budget, construction began in 2010 the new hall opened in November 2011.

GINGOLX ROAD UPGRADE: The Gingolx road is being leveled and upgraded from the bridge to the breakwater dock. WSN has approved $2 million for this project.

CHURCH RENOVATIONS: The NCFC began to review and approve applications from Nisga'a Village Governments (and local parish committees) to renovate the churches in the four villages. WSN approved a total appropriation of $100,000 to be divided and allocated equally to the four villages.

FISHERY BAY: An engineer was contracted to (a.) examine the area unprotected by rip rap and, if needed, design and prepare a cost estimate for the work necessary to fully protect it, and (b.) examine how the current rip rap is faring and if necessary what should be done to repair it.

DIKSANGIIK BRIDGE: Plans were developed to replace this bridge during the next reporting period.

Projects assigned to the NCFC for review during the reporting period included: Nisga'a Hall renovations in Prince Rupert, Gingolx cemetery road construction, and dangerous tree clearing. Each project has a budget of $50,000.

The Nisga'a Urban Housing Fund for mortgage grants and housing renovation grants was funded during the reporting. The total amounts available were $100,000 for mortgages and $100,000 for home renovations.

NEW AIYANSH LANDFILL

British Columbia undertook inspections of the New Aiyansh landfill, which resulted in the identification of non-compliance issues. Results were provided to both NLG and New Aiyansh Village Government. The Parties worked cooperatively to ensure that deficiencies with the electric fence are corrected to prevent bears from accessing the landfill. In addition, British Columbia made preparations for issuing an "Operational Certificate" to replace the permit for the New Aiyansh Landfill — a statutory change being applied across the region following the adoption of solid waste management plans by local government in the late 1990s. British Columbia sought comment on the draft certificate from both NLG and New Aiyansh Village Government.

NASS AREA STRATEGY WORKING GROUP & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NLG's Nass Area Strategy Working Group (NASWG) reviews and prepares responses for various environmental referrals and processes. During the reporting period, NASWG reviewed referrals from British Columbia and Canada regarding mineral exploration projects, land tenures, forest tenures, environmental permits, etc. NLG's participation in various external Environmental Assessment processes is also managed by NASWG. During the reporting period, NASWG reviewed many dozens of referrals regarding mineral exploration projects, land tenures, forest tenures, environmental permits, (including proposals from Avanti Mining, Seabridge Gold, Pretivm Resources, Wind River, Stewart Bulk Terminals, and Regional Power, to name a few).

Where necessary, NLG hires technical experts to provide advice. NLG does not rely on technical experts of proponents. The costs of participating in environmental assessments (i.e. hiring technical experts and negotiating benefit agreements) are paid for by project proponents through capacity funding agreements. Canada and British Columbia undertake environmental assessments of projects that may impact Nisga'a Lands or interests and consult NLG in this process. NLG actively participates in these assessments.

> **NORTHWEST TRANSMISSION LINE:** NLG is pleased to announce the conclusion of its first major development agreement since the Effective Date through the NASWG process. The Northwest Transmission Line is a 335-km, 287 kV transmission line between Skeena Substation (near Terrace) and a new substation to be built near Bob Quinn Lake. The agreement between NLG and British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) ensures that as long as the Northwest Transmission Line is on Nisga'a Lands, Nisga'a people will benefit and the environment will be protected.
>
> This agreement marks the first time since the Effective Date that the rights of NLG under the Environment Chapter of the Treaty have been tested. Rights to consultation were implemented, rights to environmental mitigation of adverse affects are complied with, as well as rights in connection with Nisga'a Nation economic participation were all achieved in this approval process. As a result, NLG will receive cash transfers, direct award contracting opportunities, investment opportunities, access to fibre optics, as well as future business development and investment opportunities. This will bring significant jobs and contracting opportunities to Nisga'a citizens and Nisga'a entrepreneurs.

LEGAL SURVEYS & AMENDMENTS

During the reporting period, British Columbia's Land Title and Survey Authority (LTSA) worked with representatives from Canada and NLG to review and amend the legal descriptions and maps contained within the Nisga'a Final Agreement for Nisga'a Lands, Gingietl Creek Ecological Reserve, and Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park. The work was undertaken to update the Treaty's descriptions so that they would reference subsequent legal surveys that define various portions of theses lands, and to describe many unsurveyed corners using real-world coordinates in place of cumbersome metes and bounds descriptions.

NISGA'A INDIVIDUAL LAND HOLDING PROJECT

Holding the title to one's own land offers the potential to generate capital for economic development. Developing nations and their citizens are crippled by their inability to use the title to their lands as a means of raising capital. No longer bound by the *Indian Act*, this should not be the case for the Nisga'a Nation or its citizens. Yet Nisga'a citizens have been unable to benefit from the equity in their homes and Nisga'a Villages have been unable to capitalize on their assets. The Nisga'a Individual Land Holding Project aims to change this.

Unrestricted fee simple ownership will allow Nisga'a citizens, as property owners, to approach lending institutions for a mortgage without requiring a guarantee from the Nisga'a Nation. Providing Nisga'a citizens with the ability to use their residential properties to raise capital — like other Canadians — will unlock an important resource for supporting economic growth, investment, and increase prosperity for Nisga'a citizens. In support of this initiative, Canada provided NLG with $577,000 in targeted funding.

During the reporting period, NLG focused on the training and educational tasks associated with the Nisga'a Individual Landholding Project. Workshops were held in each of the four Nisga'a villages and three Urban Locals so that Nisga'a citizens would have an opportunity to become familiar with the opportunities presented by individual home ownership and learn how to take advantage of the pending legislation. Workshops were also

held with the Councils and senior staff of each Village Government to answer any questions that they had about the in project general. Intensive training workshops were held with the administrative staff of each Village Government to ensure that they had an understanding of their role in the administrative processes associated with transferring fee simple title to residential lots.

Work also continued on the development of new database architecture and administrative systems. The GIS system was updated to be sure that NLG's mapping capabilities were sufficient, and regulations were drafted that established new application forms, administrative processes, and fees.

"THE NISG̲A'A NATION WILL PROSPER AS A SELF-RELIANT SOCIETY WITH A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY. NISG̲A'A CULTURE, SELF-DETERMINATION, AND WELL-BEING WILL BE PRESERVED AND ENHANCED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

Communications & Intergovernmental Relations

Simutkws nuum̓, ii sgihl axy̓ookskw loom̓, wil adigwil nidixdidalk̲dim̓

We inspire trust and understanding through effective communication

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate of Nisg̲a'a Lisims Government works to improve the way government members communicate with each other, Nisg̲a'a citizens, its Treaty partners, and the wider world.

COMMUNICATING WITH CITIZENS

NLG is committed to maintaining open, honest, and effective channels of communication. Special Assemblies are held every two years, where government members report (both in person and in a printed report) on all areas of governance and public programs. Every Nisg̲a'a citizen has the right to attend and speak at Special Assemblies and the proceedings are webcast to ensure all Nisg̲a'a citizens are able to participate.

In addition to biennial Special Assemblies, the directorate:

- publishes NLG's monthly newsletter (doubled in size during the reporting period)
- maintains and enhances website (www.nisgaanation.ca) and social media
- develops and maintains websites and social media for major events
- webcasts important events
- broadcasts Nisg̲a'a news and information to Nisg̲a'a Villages, Urban Locals, and Nisg̲a'a institutions, and
- compiles and maintains a photo gallery of significant events.

REACHING THE WIDER WORLD

While some issues and initiatives are specific to Nisg̲a'a citizens, others may have regional, provincial, or national implications. The Nisg̲a'a Final Agreement is a groundbreaking treaty and its implementation is being closely watched. Fostering a broad understanding of the Treaty is the goal of the directorate's public relations efforts. This goal is achieved through the production and distribution of information packages, videos, media alerts, press releases, interviews, and collaborating with Treaty partners (Canada and British Columbia) in the production of this report.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE

The Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Directorate is also responsible for emergency planning and response. With an Emergency Management Plan now in place, the directorate is focusing on training, running exercises, planning, and promoting public awareness. During the reporting period, two simulation exercises were conducted. The directorate also promotes any training opportunities offered by British Columbia's Provincial Emergency Program branch (PEP) on Nisg̲a'a Lands.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Nisg̲a'a Lisims Government took its first steps into the field of social media by launching a Nisg̲a'a Nation Facebook page — the official Facebook page of NLG. Here, Nisg̲a'a citizens are provided with the opportunity to directly engage with their NLG government members, post questions, and receive responses. Launched in November 2011, NLG's Facebook page has helped Nisg̲a'a government track issues important to Nisg̲a'a citizens. A full audit and redesign of the NLG website is planned for the next reporting period.

NISGA'A FOUNDATION

The directorate undertakes the promotion of NLG's Nisga'a Foundation. The foundation was established to seek out funding opportunities to leverage the existing resources of the Nisga'a Nation, and to partner with various foundations and charitable organizations to promote the social, environmental, and economic aspirations of Nisga'a Nation. During the reporting period, the directorate developed an action plan to promote the foundation and will begin making applications in the next reporting period.

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT COALITION

When it comes to treaty-making, NLG has a wealth of experience to share. As a way of reaching out to and partnering with First Nations across Canada, Nisga'a Lisims Government president Mitchell Stevens attended the Land Claims Agreement Coalition leadership meeting in Ottawa. In a show of support for the Nisga'a Nation, NLG President Stevens was appointed as one of the Co-Chairs of the Coalition.

"WE ARE NISGA'A. WE DECLARE TO THE WORLD THAT WE ARE A UNIQUE ABORIGINAL NATION OF CANADA, PROUD OF OUR HISTORY, AND ASSURED IN OUR FUTURE. WE CLAIM AND TAKE OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS EQUAL PARTICIPANTS IN CANADIAN SOCIETY. OUR DESTINY IS LIVING PEACEFULLY TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER NATIONS OF CANADA." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

Programs & Services

Dimt hugaxam diyeem̓ t an de'entgum̓

Our governance and services evolve to meet our people's needs

Guided by Nisga'a culture and best practices from around the world, Nisga'a Lisims Government works to improve the lives of Nisga'a people. In partnership with the four Nisga'a Village Governments, NLG delivers a wide range of culturally appropriate programs and services in the areas of health, education, social development, local services, and access to justice.

FISCAL FINANCING AGREEMENT

The Treaty requires the Parties to enter into a Fiscal Financing Agreement describing the financial relationship among the Parties. The FFA sets out funding amounts from Canada and British Columbia to NLG for supporting agreed-upon government programs and services, and for supporting treaty implementation activities. The FFA also sets out terms, conditions, and reporting requirements for transfer payments. Canada pays $56.9 million each year as a block-fund for federally-supported programs and services, including: education, social development, health, physical works, local government, and non-commercial fisheries. British Columbia pays $4,354,595. All federal and provincial transfers were completed on time. Canada and British Columbia may also provide additional program or project funding to NLG to support specific initiatives; these funding amounts are indicated in relevant sections of this report.

The current Nisga'a Nation Fiscal Financing Agreement was signed by the Parties on February 26, 2010 with effective dates of April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2015.

QUALITY OF LIFE STRATEGY

NLG's Quality of Life strategy seeks to develop a public policy framework to guide the programs, policies, and other activities that — taken together — will provide a measurable improvement in the quality of life of Nisga'a citizens. NLG has undertaken preliminary planning which will lead to a Quality of Life Summit that will bring together Nisga'a public service providers to focus on removing obstacles to an improved quality of life for Nisga'a children. An assessment of health, education, and social service initiatives is being undertaken. In particular, early childhood development presents an important starting point for improving the quality of life. Addressing the needs of children in these early years is a critical goal.

NISGA'A VALLEY HEALTH AUTHORITY

Nisga'a Government manages the delivery of healthcare in Nisga'a communities through the Nisga'a Valley Health Authority (NVHA). Registered under the *Societies Act*, the elected body includes representatives from the four Nisga'a Villages and an elected representative from the non-Nisga'a community. Responsible for creating and maintaining facilities and promoting medical and public healthcare programs, NVHA operates a diagnostic centre in New Aiyansh and satellite clinics in the other Nisga'a Villages, providing physician services, home care, cultural community health representatives, and the administration of non-insured health benefits. Nisga'a citizens report a high level of satisfaction with health services on Nisga'a Lands and consider NVHA one of Canada's most progressive, efficient, and effective First Nations healthcare organizations. NVHA is funded with an annual $1.3 million investment from Canada. During the reporting period, British Columbia contributed a total of $2,056,030.

NISGA'A CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

With funding from British Columbia ($2.2 million) and Canada ($4.4 million), NLG provides service options to ensure the protection and well-being of Nisga'a children consistent with both the Ayuukhl Nisga'a and British Columbia statutes and policies. This is achieved through Nisga'a Child and Family Services (NCFS), which works to support Nisga'a families through the promotion and utilization of the Ayuuk.

With offices located in New Aiyansh, Terrace, and Prince Rupert, NCFS provides both statutory services (an extension of the child welfare law) and non-statutory services (volunteer community services). NCFS offers support services for families, which promote sound parenting practices and respite care. Voluntary care agreements allow parents to place their children in a safe, approved home during medical treatment or training. Special Needs Agreements ensure the safe care of children with special needs. NCFS also distributes support payments to families for providing foster care for Nisga'a children in Nisga'a family care homes. Other services include:

- Family Group Conference Program, which provides a venue for alternative family dispute resolution
- Infant Development Program, which benefits children from 0–3 years of age by providing support and education for parents, and
- Supported Child Care Development Program, which supports and provides advocacy for children with special needs.

In addition, NCFS surplus funds provide resources for the following NLG programs:

- Youth Worker Program
- Recreation Program
- Community Workshops, and
- Family Support Services.

During the reporting period, NCFS undertook the following initiatives:

- 3 new foster home studies were underway in Prince Rupert (with the goal of opening these new foster homes by the beginning of the next reporting period)
- 6 new foster homes opened in Terrace
- 2 specialized resource homes for a high needs/special needs children opened in Terrace
- 3 new foster home studies were undertaken in Prince Rupert (with the goal of opening these new foster homes by the beginning of the next reporting period)
- 13 Family Group Conferencing Sessions were completed, and
- 5 Family Case Planning Conferences were completed.

CHILD PROTECTION (C-6) STATUS

During the reporting period, Nisga'a Child and Family Services continued preparations for the next step in the transition to Child Protection (or C-6) status. When this transition is completed, likely in the next reporting period, NLG will have control over the last important area of child and family service delivery. Delegated staff will be able to conduct child welfare investigations, remove children at risk, and make representations to family court with respect to children in need of protection. This is an important step in the evolution of NLG, one that has the potential to make an enormous, positive change in the lives of Nisga'a children and their families.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

NLG is committed to supporting healthy and economically prosperous Nisga'a communities where children, youth, and adults have hope and opportunities, and access to social programs that support a healthy living standard. This is accomplished by developing individual and family strengths and by providing access to social services that will enhance their self-sufficiency. As social policies are continuously evolving, NLG keeps apprised of any provincial changes and ensures NLG's policies and services are reasonably comparable to those available to residents elsewhere in British Columbia. The following programs are funded through the FFA:

- Basic Needs
- Training Employment Support
- Special Needs
- Family Violence Prevention
- Guardian Financial Assistance
- Community Support Services
- Adult In-Home Care
- National Child Benefit Reinvestment
- Employment Initiatives, and
- Community Preventative Services.

"WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE VALUES OF OUR AYUUK, WHICH HAVE ALWAYS SUSTAINED US AND BY WHICH WE GOVERN OURSELVES, AND WE EACH ACKNOWLEDGE OUR ACCOUNTABILITY TO THOSE VALUES, AND TO THE NISGA'A NATION." — Declaration of the Nisga'a Nation

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

NLG's Access to Justice Department works to involve every Nisga'a citizen in promoting safety by building on the strengths of individuals, families, and communities. The Justice Department supports the prevention and resolution of conflicts by increasing awareness of the Nisga'a Ayuuk and Canadian laws through the following programs.

- **The Aboriginal Justice Program** assists the Justice System in improving its relevance and effectiveness in Nisga'a communities; encourages the revival of traditional Nisga'a practices in resolving conflict; develops alternative programming to deal with deterrence and prevention, diversion, sentencing, rehabilitation, and incarceration; and encourages crime prevention through information, education, and community development programming with Nisga'a communities. (Funded $110,278 annually from British Columbia.)
- **The Yuuhlimk'askw Program and Youth Justice Program** provide culturally appropriate alternative justice solutions and help Nisga'a communities effectively respond to youth justice issues/needs. (Funded $87,890 annually from Canada.)
- **The Nass Valley Victim Services Program** provides emotional support to victims of crime during their recovery and involvement with the justice process. (Funded $35,560 annually by British Columbia.)

ELECTIONS ACT

During the reporting period, the *Nisga'a Elections Act* was amended in order to prohibit elected officials from holding positions on boards of Nisga'a institutions which also receive operating funds from NLG. In addition, the act stipulates that any Nisga'a citizen who is in default of a "prescribed debt" to NLG, a Nisga'a Village Government, or Nisga'a Urban Local, will not be eligible to run for election until the prescribed debt is paid.

NISGA'A REGISTRY OF LAWS

The Nisga'a Registry of Laws is housed in NLG's offices and is available to the public. Updated on a regular basis, the registry consists of 191 laws, regulations, and amendments currently in force, which are now available on the NLG website at: www.nisgaanation.ca. During the reporting period, WSN amended and/or reenacted the following legislation:

Nisga'a Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2011
Nisga'a Enforcement Amendment Regulation, 2011
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Act, 2011
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Act (No. 2), 2011
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Act, 2011 In Force Regulation
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Regulation, 2011
Nisga'a Elections Dispute Resolution Amendment Regulation
Nisga'a Elections Amendment Act, 2011 In Force Regulation
Nisga'a Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2012.

NISGA'A SETTLEMENT TRUST

Under the Treaty, the capital transfer to the Nisga'a Nation is paid over 14 years. NLG has developed a risk budgeting framework for these funds, known as the Nisga'a Settlement Trust. During the reporting period, NLG realized nearly $2 million savings in interest payments by refinancing the Nisga'a Treaty Loan at substantially lower interest rates. The trust continued to experience overall growth despite uncertainty in global financial markets, albeit slightly below original targets.

NLG diligently monitors the trust to ensure continued growth. Where other elected administrations routinely plan four to five years into the future, the primary goal of the Nisga'a Settlement Trust is to provide financial stability to the Nisga'a Nation through the seventh generation.

Annual Nisga'a Settlement Trust fund value (on March 31)

CONSUMER TAXATION

In accordance with the Treaty, relief from consumption taxes — in the form of remission orders — expired, on June 1, 2008, for all persons within Nisga'a Lands and for Nisga'a citizens anywhere in Canada. Governments levy taxes within their jurisdictions to provide services and enhance the quality of life for their citizens. During the reporting period, an outstanding issue regarding federal consumption tax revenue and the application of Own Source Revenue tax remained under discussion between NLG and Canada.

PROPERTY TAXATION

During the reporting period, representatives of NLG and British Columbia met to discuss delegation of British Columbia's property tax powers to NLG. No agreement was reached during the reporting period, and the parties continue to work on an agreement.

INCOME TAXATION

As with consumer and property tax, Nisga'a citizens will no longer be exempt from income tax effective January 1, 2013. During the reporting period, NLG — in conjunction with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) — continued to provide income tax preparation courses to help educate Nisga'a citizens. The program taught participants the process of completing basic tax returns and the various rebates and credits available for low-income individuals.

During the reporting period, British Columbia and NLG began negotiating a personal income tax revenue sharing agreement. The Parties expect that in 2013, when Nisga'a citizens become fully taxable, British Columbia will receive 50 percent of British Columbia personal income tax paid by Nisga'a citizens who live on Nisga'a Lands.

BUDGET SURPLUS

During the reporting period, NLG posted another budget surplus. This was achieved through the continued search for greater efficiencies in operations, which translate into greater availability of programs and services to Nisga'a citizens.

FISCAL HARMONIZATION

Canada has proposed a new framework for renewing Fiscal Financing Agreements called "Fiscal Harmonization." It is the view of NLG that the Fiscal Harmonization policy attempts to replace "negotiation" of Fiscal Financing Agreements, as required by the Treaty, with a "formula driven" prescribed arrangement for funding renewal. NLG finds this proposed approach inconsistent with Canada's obligations under the Treaty and intends to defend these rights vigorously.

"THE TRADITIONAL ROLE THAT THE SIMGIGAT AND SIGIDIM HAANAK̓, AND RESPECTED NISG̱A'A ELDERS, AS RECOGNIZED AND HONOURED IN NISG̱A'A CULTURE FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, WILL BE RESPECTED; NISG̱A'A ELDERS, SIMGIGAT AND SIGIDIM HAANAK̓ WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND INTERPRETATION OF THE AYUUK̓ TO NISG̱A'A GOVERNMENT." — Declaration of the Nisg̱a'a Nation

COUNCIL OF ELDERS

During the reporting period, in recognition of the strength and wisdom of Nisg̱a'a elders, the Nisg̱a'a Council of Elders was invited to join Nisg̱a'a Lisims Government at all sitting of Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisg̱a'a. In addition, the Council of Elders joined the newly formed Nisg̱a'a Heritage Society retreat. At the retreat, the society introduced themselves and presented their mandate. Over two days, they discussed how the language, culture, history, and Ayuuk̓ can survive and become part of the everyday lives of young people.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

From time immemorial, Nisg̱a'a elders have selected youth and trained them to become leaders of their respective wilps (houses). In keeping with this tradition, Nisg̱a'a Government continues to engage and train the leaders of tomorrow. NLG is committed to improving access for Nisg̱a'a youth to programs and services by involving them in the social and economic decision-making of government. This is accomplished through the Nisg̱a'a Youth Advisory Council (NYAC). Each Nisg̱a'a Village and each Nisg̱a'a Urban Local has its own Youth Council, which sends a representative to the seven-member NYAC.

In addition to taking an active role in government, Nisg̱a'a Youth Councils undertook in the following initiatives during the reporting period.

- Over 50 Nisg̱a'a youth representatives attended the "Gathering Our Voices" Youth Leadership Conference in Prince Rupert where they were able to network with over 1,500 other youth from all over British Columbia and attend various leadership skill-building workshops.
- Twenty Nisg̱a'a youth (representing the four villages and the Terrace Urban Local) attended a "Nisg̱a'a Treaty 101 Training Camp" held in Kitsault. Topics and activities included Nisg̱a'a language training, Nisg̱a'a adaawak̓ (story time), Common Bowl Philosophy, Declaration of Nisg̱a'a Nation, Residential Schools, Feast Book (Yukw), and cedar weaving.

"WE ARE NISG̱A'A, THE PEOPLE OF K̓'ALII-AKSIM LISIMS. MAY K̓'AM LIGII HAHLHAAHL CONTINUE TO PROTECT OUR LAND AND NATION." — Declaration of the Nisg̱a'a Nation

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT — TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

A pillar in the foundation of good governance is a government's ability to maintain transparency and accountability in its day-to-day operation. *The Constitution of the Nisga'a Nation* (Nisga'a Constitution) came into effect on May 11, 2000, and provides for the establishment of Nisga'a Lisims Government, each of the four Nisga'a Village Governments, and the three Nisga'a Urban Locals. The Nisga'a Constitution further called for the establishment of Nisga'a Laws, which, among other things, contain provisions for transparency and accountability in government decision-making and financial administration.

One of 180 laws enacted since the Effective Date, the *Nisga'a Government Act* stipulates requirements for the frequency of meetings of various bodies, such as Wilp Si'ayuukhl Nisga'a (WSN), the NLG Executive, the Council of Elders, and all other House committees of Nisga'a Government. The *Nisga'a Government Act* also enforces the Members' Code of Conduct, which specifies requirements with respect to the conduct of each elected and appointed Nisga'a representative while serving in their official capacity.

The Nisga'a Government's standards of financial administration are comparable to standards generally accepted for governments in Canada. There are requirements in Nisga'a Laws for budgets, quarterly reports, annual reports, and audits of the financial activities of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions. The *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* stipulates details for oversight, management and control of all financial matters of the Nisga'a Nation, Nisga'a Government, and Nisga'a Public Institutions. Under the *Nisga'a Financial Administration Act* there must be an annual independent audit of financial statements of Nisga'a Government and Nisga'a Public Institutions which is made available for inspection by Nisga'a citizens and is available on the Nisga'a Lisims Government website: www.nisgaanation.ca.

The Nisga'a Nation is also accountable to the governments of Canada and British Columbia for the funding provided by those governments and fulfills this obligation by submitting reports and audits, annually or as required.

NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT — SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

All amounts are included in the audited, consolidated financial statements of Nisga'a Lisims Government (March 31, 2012), or have been calculated from those financial statements. These statements are available to all Nisga'a citizens by appointment or on www.nisgaanation.ca.

FINANCIAL ASSETS	2012	2011
Cash	**$ 281,693**	$ 251,685
Accounts and loan receivable	**4,735,687**	4,833,365
Nisga'a Financial Agreement proceeds receivable	**64,219,885**	83,525,232
Capital Finance Commission proceeds receivable	**10,843,902**	14,458,536
Designated cash	**18,981,739**	19,058,617
Designated trust funds	**148,579,306**	127,204,918
Investments in other entities	**2,578,772**	2,084,591
	250,220,984	251,416,945
LIABILITIES		
Bank indebtedness	**1,122,798**	308,084
Accounts payable and other liabilities	**8,282,603**	9,413,183
Due to other entities	**2,559,017**	2,415,621
Capital Finance Commission deferred revenue	**29,562,209**	33,244,207
Treaty debt payable	**28,515,225**	37,414,953
Long-term debt	**5,105,139**	6,851,296
	75,146,991	89,647,345
Net financial assets	**175,073,993**	161,769,600
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets	**26,022,797**	24,706,017
Other non-financial assets	**73,104**	368,962
	26,095,901	25,074,979
Accumulated surplus	**201,169,894**	186,844,579

SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

REVENUES		
Fiscal Financing Agreement and related funding	**$ 56,058,157**	$ 53,372,228
Other revenues	**24,574,411**	13,096,655
Targeted funding — INAC	**6,195,913**	2,408,545
Interest income on Final Agreement	**3,332,481**	4,294,900
	90,160,962	73,172,328
Operating Expenses	**22,944,193**	21,631,586
Transfers and operating grants		
Nisga'a Village Governments	**27,319,040**	21,142,756
Nisga'a Valley Health Authority	**15,122,928**	14,153,681
Nisga'a School Board #92	**7,085,514**	7,391,169
Nisga'a Urban Locals	**2,445,287**	1,990,434
Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a	**918,685**	775,681
	52,891,454	45,453,721
	75,835,647	67,085,307
Excess revenues over expenses	**14,325,315**	6,087,021
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	**186,844,579**	180,757,558
Accumulated surplus, end of year	**201,169,894**	186,844,579

These two maps are representational and not to scale and are for general information purposes only.

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- Nisga'a Lisims Government at 250-633-3000 or www.nisgaanation.ca

QS-B010-080-EE-A1
ISSN: 1927-6796 (Online)
Catalogue: R1-17/2012E-PDF

© Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and Nisga'a Lisims Government, (2014).

Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : L'Accord définitif Nisga'a — Rapport de mise en œuvre 2011-12.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF:

Nisga'a Lisims Government
New Aiyansh, British Columbia
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